

Stony Brook

en

ACCIÓN

May 8, 1995

The Latino Student Feature Magazine of USB

Vol. III, No. 5

¡Latinos del mundo, ya tu sabes!

Celebrating Latin Weekend '95

The origins of the "Young Lords", Part 2

The formation of the political party, the advances made for Hispanics and the breakup of the New York and Chicago chapters

Recapping the last three years

Special anniversary issue and a look at the transformation from "column" to full feature magazine



Some of the many high school students that attended this year's Youth Empowerment Day pausing to relax and get into the limelight.

Helping to save our future

The Annual Youth Empowerment Day hosted by LASO and other organizations encourages Hispanics in high school to graduate and to pursue a college education

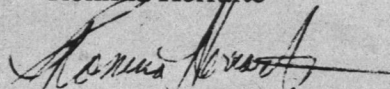
Editor's Note



Well this year certainly flew by. I must say it was an interesting year considering everything that happened, like the rally in Admin protesting the budget cuts, Proposition 187, overkill of the O.J. Simpson trial. . . Although, these are not necessarily good (for some of us extremely upsetting) things, there were also many good times to be had at Stony Brook. Copacabana, the semi-formal, the Latin Block Party, and our second boat in the Regatta taking second place. Since this is the last issue of En ACCIÓN until next semester I would like

say that I've enjoyed being editor of this magazine/paper. Even though there were a few times I swore I was going insane, I was happy to lend my services to something that I feel strongly about; being informed. Whether it be actual news, events or *bochinche* (admit it, you enjoy it as much as the next person), it's always interesting finding out new things, like who did what in front of whom or "...oh my God, can you believe what they were wearing!" On a more serious note, I'd like to thank L.A.S.O. on behalf of the En ACCIÓN staff for the plaque we received from them in recognition of our contributions to the Stony Brook Latino community. Although it sounds as if I'm tooting our horn, I'm really not, we were just happy to know someone out there reads us and acknowledges the hard work and effort that goes into putting together this magazine. For those of you that think it's easy and feel we don't address enough issues, please come join us on the day the paper is laid-out or contribute either your services or an article. I'd also like to thank the staff, who was very supportive, for a great year. Believe me, I would be nowhere without them, because I not only work with them I hang with them (when I get a chance). As far as next semester is concerned, we won't be so wet behind the ears and will be able to serve you, the reader, better. But we'll be needing your help again. Yes, it's that lovely time of year when we will solicit your support in the concrete form or your signature so we can get money for our budget to keep in existence. And if your wondering why I'm being so flaky and wordier than usual, it's almost seven in the morning and I've been up all night so please forgive me. I hope you all enjoyed this year as much as I did and have an equally or better summer.

Romina Herrarte



Editor-in-Chief

Editor-in-Chief
Romina Herrarte

Managing Editor &
Business Manager
Kyria Jaimes

Assistant Managing Editor
Elena Restrepo

Office Manager &
Spanish Copy Editor
Charlie Gómez

English Copy Editor
Jennifer Rolnick

Contributors
Felix "Felipito" Palacios
Melinda DeJesus
Eriberto Cruz
Olga Pineda
Julie Castaño
Vanessa Nuñez
Erica Ramos
Karen L. Soler

Advisor
Fernando P. Tirado

Special thanks to...
Carmen Vasques
Dr. Carlos Vidal
Center for Health Technology
& Management
Miguel C. Alonso
The Latino Journal
LatinoLine News Service
Orlando Rodriguez - LASO '95

Very special thanks to Manuel Salvador Alguero, Director of Hispanic Affairs for SUNY Central, for his invaluable information and recognition of en ACCIÓN and for all those that have contributed to the magazine in the past and present whose names were not mentioned above.

The staff of Stony Brook en ACCIÓN can be contacted in the Stony Brook Student Union, rm 246 or at 632-3233.

Stony Brook

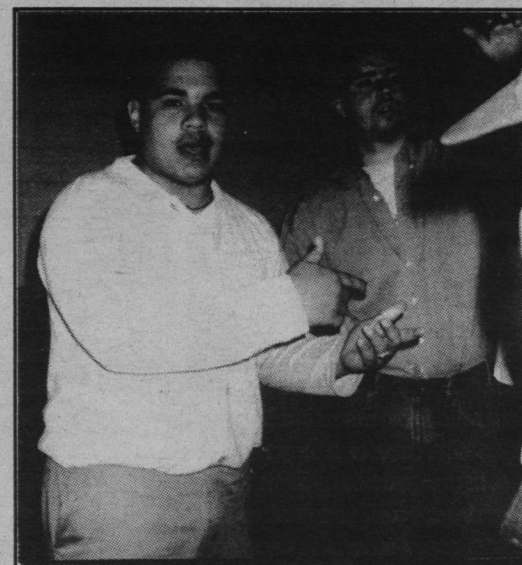
en ACCIÓN

Features/Artículos

Cover story

Helping to save 4 our future.

The Latin American Students Association (LASO) hosts its annual Youth Empowerment Day. Stony Brook students got together with many Hispanic high school students from the inner city for a Q&A about college life as well as a tour of the campus.



Cover and inside photo: E. Ramos

LASO President Orlando Rodriguez (left) with Martin Rodriguez, Student Liason to Public Safety, coordinating the tours for the day's event

¡Latinos del mundo, ya tu sabes! 7

A look at some of the events of this year's Latin Weekend '95. Including the 19th Annual LASO semi-formal, the Roth Quad Regatta and "Arroz con Pollo", and the third annual Latin Block Party.

The "Young Lords" and its 10 origins: the beginning of the movement

Part two of a two part series. One of the earliest Hispanic movements in the U.S. that advocated for a change in society and better treatment of people of color. A look at the actions taken by members of the Young Lords and the constant struggle against a disinterested city and police brutality. Also mentioned is the transformation of the Young Lords into a political party as well as the break up of the Chicago and New York chapters.

Latino leaders address the issues13 and offer solutions

School of Social Welfare and the National Conference of Puerto Rican Woman discuss the needs of the Latino community in a recently published report of the LI Leadership Summit.

5	Campus Spotlight: Verenys Vasquez
9	School of the Assassins
12	LACS art exhibit
14	Recapping the last three years of En ACCIÓN

Helping to save our future

H.S. students get a taste of college life through L.A.S.O.'s Annual Youth Empowerment Day

By Erica D. Ramos

Students from inner city high schools were invited to Stony Brook to participate in Youth Empowerment Day, on May 2nd 1995. Sponsored by LASO (Latin American Student Organization), this day is primarily targeted towards urban Latin youth. Introduced two years ago, its purpose is to expose students to college and encourage them to attend. By having this event, many students can visit the campus, and get a first hand look at the college experience. Among the schools present this year were: George Washington High School, Park West, Martin Luther King, and John F. Kennedy High School.

The students arrived at Stony Brook at approximately 10 am to begin their days of activities. As they exited the buses, LASO members were there waiting to escort the students into the bi-level of the union. Once everyone was settled in, LASO treasurer Martha Tobar, welcomed everyone to the univer-

sity, and gave a brief summary of the day's agenda.

LASO members then went around the room, introducing themselves, and basically telling everyone why they each

chose to come to Stony Brook. After, members talked more about academics, the campus, the dorms, meal plans etc., giving the students a sense of what a typical college lifestyle would be like.

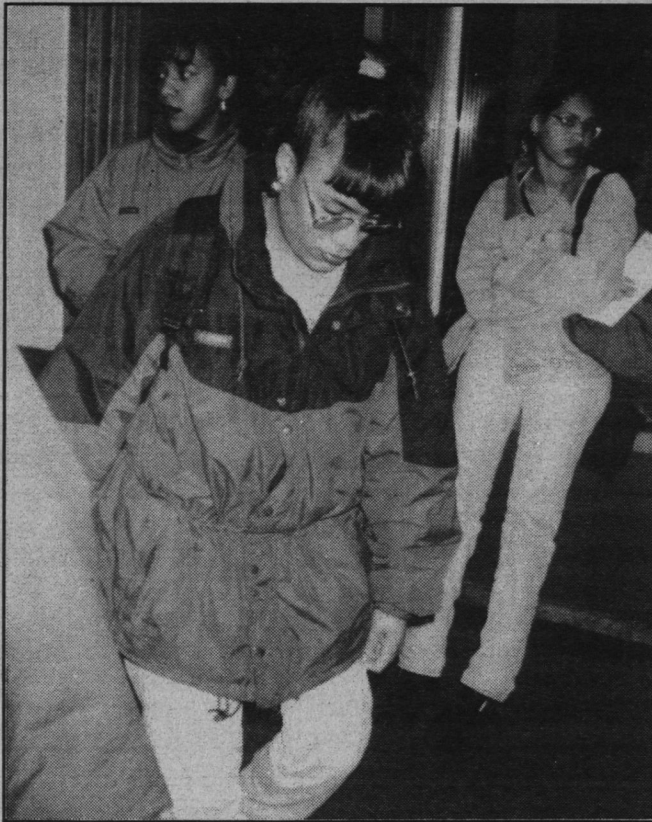
Guest speakers from Financial Aid, EOP, and Campus Police gave students more information on campus issues, and the application process.

There were also Stony Brook students that spoke about their particular major, and the programs available at the university. Students received pamphlets and literature of all kinds from the guest speakers. Some showed their interest by posing a variety of questions to the speakers.

The recurring theme everyone seemed to stress was the emphasis on one's academic record in college, and how it is your biggest priority. Involvement in the campus was another major theme of the forum. LASO and the guest speakers encouraged the high school students to get involved in some type of organization, claiming that involvement adds to, and accentuates the college experience.

LASO addressed the students in closing about opportuni-

YED continued on page 5



Top left: Students from many different schools in NYC came to participate in this year's Youth Empowerment Day.

Top right: Students listening to speakers from admission and the financial aid office while enjoying a meal provided by LASO.

Bottom right: LASO executive board that helped put together this year's event with other Latino organizations and assisted in the campus tours.

Shift Undermines "Oppression" Stance in Cuban Policy

Washington has stated, in effect, that Cuba is no longer the burning building of oppression that any sensible person would flee.

It was a harsh development for anti-communist exiles, who for many years had encouraged Cubans to steal away from their island, knowing the United States would shelter them as political refugees.

As of now, anyone leaving Cuba without proper travel documents will be turned back by the U.S. Coast Guard. Cuba agreed to accept such repatriated boat people, and Miami-based foes of Fidel Castro angrily charged that President Bill Clinton has made a deal with the devil.

"This is an act of treason by the U.S. government to the Cuban people," said Jose Basulto, president of Brothers to

the Rescue, a Miami group that sends boats and planes into the Caribbean to assist Cubans fleeing the island.

About 15,000 former *balseiros*, as the boat people are known, will be accepted into the United States from the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay. That concession is a compromise that doesn't leave Basulto and other Miami Cubans overly grateful.

Cuba-watchers said yesterday's development casts a shadow over the three-decade-old trade embargo that continues to be the pillar of U.S. policy toward the Castro government.

Others argued the Clinton administration must take the next logical step and accept into the country hundreds of Haitians being held at Guantanamo.

Regarding the embargo, some

asked: If we are now sending rafters back to Cuba, how can we then make the argument the island is so oppressive we need a punishing trade embargo to force it to change?

"It undermines the very logic of the [embargo] policy," said Philip Brenner, professor of international relations at American University at Washington, D.C.

Anger at the recent policy change, and its implications, reverberated through the walls of the State Department. Dennis Hays, who had been handling day-to-day Cuban policy for two years or so, asked to be relieved of his duties, which was granted, said one of his former assistants.

Critics of Clinton's Cuba policies, especially his stubborn defense of the trade embargo, welcomed news that Hays was gone.

Wayne Smith, a former U.S. diplomat in Havana and now a professor at John Hopkins University, said he hopes the U.S.-Cuba agreement is a harbinger of even more cooperation.

Smith has been challenging the embargo by leading groups of scholars to Cuba, in violation of Clinton's executive order that scholars should apply to Washington for licenses before going there.

Among those calling for admitting the Haitians at Guantanamo was Rep. Charles Rangel (D-Manhattan), a vehement opponent of the Cuba embargo. He has stated that Americans are realizing the embargo is a useless vestige of the Cold War.

This article originally appeared in *Newsday*, 5/1/95 and was written by Ron Howell.

Campus Spotlight

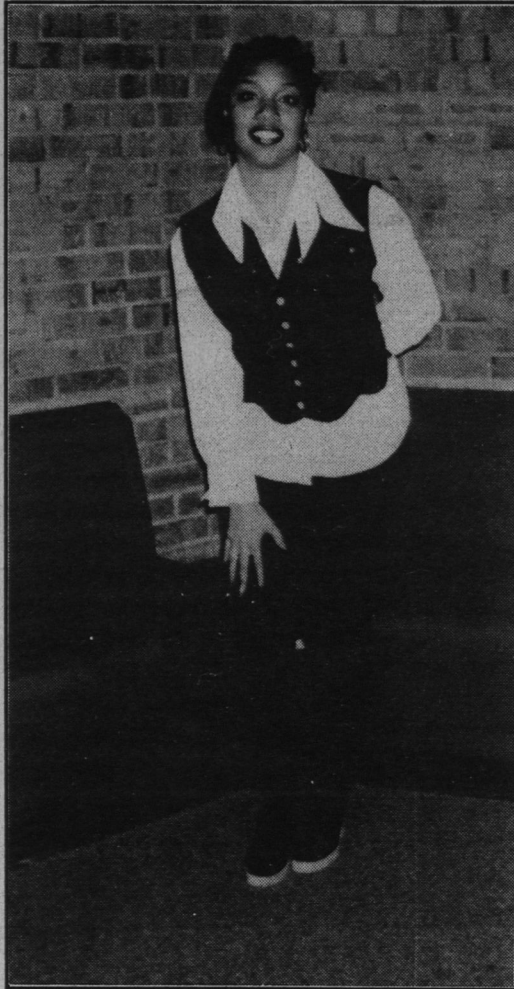
Erica D. Ramos

She wants to be remembered as "the girl who had a goal, and achieved what she set out to do." For Verenys Vasquez, her ambitious strive for success will definitely leave a track record, many will not forget.

Vasquez is a sophomore majoring in Respiratory Therapy and minoring in Social Legal Studies. She has worked in the Dean's Office of the School of Health and Technology and Management, in the Health Science Center for the last two years. Trying to gain as much experience as possible in her desired field, she is also an attendant for SBVAC (Stony Brook Volunteer Ambulance Corp). Vasquez has an 11pm - 8am ambulance shift this semester, in which she responds to emergency calls on campus. She is currently in training to be a crew chief for SBVAC next semester; "I'd be the EMT-D (Emergency Medical Technician with defibrillator) in charge of the ambulance in case of an emergency." In just a few weeks she will complete a course which will make her certified as a licensed EMT-D.

After graduation Vasquez plans to work in a New York State hospital for about a year, to gain more experience. She then plans to return to her studies and earn her Masters in Respiratory Therapy with a track in Business Administration, in pursuit of a position as a Director of the Respiratory Therapy Department in a hospital.

Vasquez says she feels society needs more Hispanics in the medical field, and according to her, she is here to set an example that Latinos can be successful. Her Dominican heritage is something she boasts about with great pride. Vasquez says culture is something one



should love because, "it is where you come from, what you represent, and mainly, who you are." This proud "Quisqueyana" says she'd be willing to do anything she can, to lend a helping hand to the Latino community.

Next semester Vasquez is planning to be an active member of Minorities in Medicine. She might even try to run for an executive board position one day. Vasquez wants to enhance her leadership skills, and by taking on such responsibilities, she feels that she can accomplish this once she gets involved. According to her, involvement is essential for networking and gaining valuable experience.

Vasquez describes herself as ambitious, kind-hearted, and definitely a dedicated individual. According to her, once she sets her mind to do something, she usually follows things through. She also likes to take on new challenges and carry them out to the best of her ability. However, this Latina knows her limits, and tries not to take on tasks she knows she will not be able to handle.

Her mother is the most important person in the world to her. Vasquez says if it were not for her mother's influence, she would not be the ambitious person she is today. "I owe all my success to my mother, I'm a product of her...and I want to make her proud."

With still a few years left to complete her degree at Stony Brook, Verenys Vasquez still has time to excel even further in her strive for success. According to her, her worst fear is failing and not making it. However, with the strong willed dedication she has to her goal, failure is not likely.

Letters/Opinions

Taking action now to solve tomorrow's problems

To the members of the Latino community at Stony Brook:

The semester is coming to an end and I would like to thank my board and my friends who helped out throughout the year. As many of you know, the attendance of LASO has dropped substantially, and those who do attend think that by showing up to the meetings they have "done their job". The board has usually ended up doing the majority of the work, and people still find reason to complain.

The board cannot do everything, we are students and also have jobs. Instead of coming together and helping out, many "members" and non-members begin complaining or spreading rumors about the organization and/or the board. One problem that continues to arise is that we have not been able to

get along with each other and we constantly talk behind each others back. I know that there are people who talk about me or the board, but I still greet them when I see them, because at that moment I think we should be able to work together and get along, and I swallow my pride. We are all brothers and sisters!

I remember people complaining early this semester about our meeting room in 201, yet the semester before when we had a bigger and better room and we had to pull people from the lobby just to establish quorum. The bottom line is that "we" can never win and make everyone happy. Instead of supporting us, you find something to talk about. Instead of talking nonsense, take action.

The body of LASO has had to

recently pass an amendment to our constitution; if you hold any position in your fraternity or sorority or any other organization, you cannot hold a position on the executive board of LASO, unless no one else is running. There was much commotion the night when this amendment was proposed, but it was passed. The reasoning behind this amendment is that anyone can vote at LASO, but you shouldn't have to be a member of a fraternity or sorority first in order to run for a position. Another reason is that in the past, many members have not been able to separate their organization's business and personal problems from their responsibilities to LASO.

As much as those (who were opposed to this amendment) say they can, we have to face the reality that it has

happened in the past and chances are that it will continue to happen. Also, there is a definite conflict of interest and realistically, there is too much work involved for anyone to be committed to both organizations. A few years ago, I would have disagreed, but unfortunately for us Latinos, this measure had to be taken.

We worry too much about name recognition, and we forget who really are and what our purpose here is. I hope that next year things will be different. Some new people are showing much interest in the organization and want to make a difference. Remember, before we can end this, let's remember how it all began.

Sincerely,
Orlando Rodriguez
LASO Pres., '94-'95

¡Latinos del mundo...



LATIN WEEKEND '95

...Ya tu sabes!

LASO's Annual Semi-formal draws huge crowd to the Sports Complex

By Erica D. Ramos

On April 22nd, Stony Brook students gathered once again in celebration of the Latin American Student Organization's (L.A.S.O.) semi-formal.

The event included a banquet followed by a fun filled night of dancing. Held in the Indoor Sports Complex, the atrium was lavishly decorated with the burgundy, blue and white color schemes. All that attended were dressed in their best, as they came to rejoice and share in this annual tradition.

The doors opened at six pm, however, the ceremony officially began at around 7:15. Guests enjoyed authentic Latin food from La Lechonera, as they awaited the commencement of the ceremony. Natalie A. Perez, Vice President of L.A.S.O., started with the opening remarks, welcoming everyone to the event. Guest speaker Pedro Gonzalez, Assistant Vice Provost of Graduate Studies at Stony Brook, followed with an inspirational speech on the importance of education for Latino Youths.

With the awards ceremony that ensued, L.A.S.O. honored Gonzalez with an award of recognition. Sigma Iota Alpha Sorority Inc., awarded Beverly Rivera, Assistant Director to Registrar, an award for her outstanding commitment to Latino Community. Sister Margaret Ann Landry, R.S.H.M. was awarded by Sigma Lambda Beta Fraternity Inc., for her.

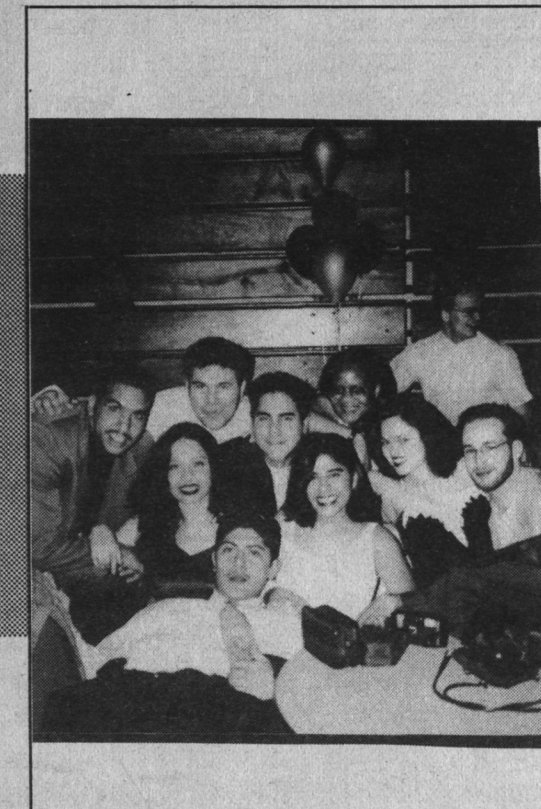
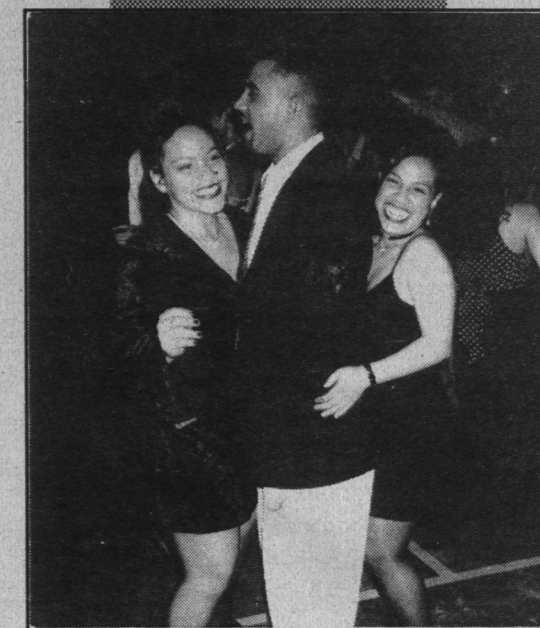
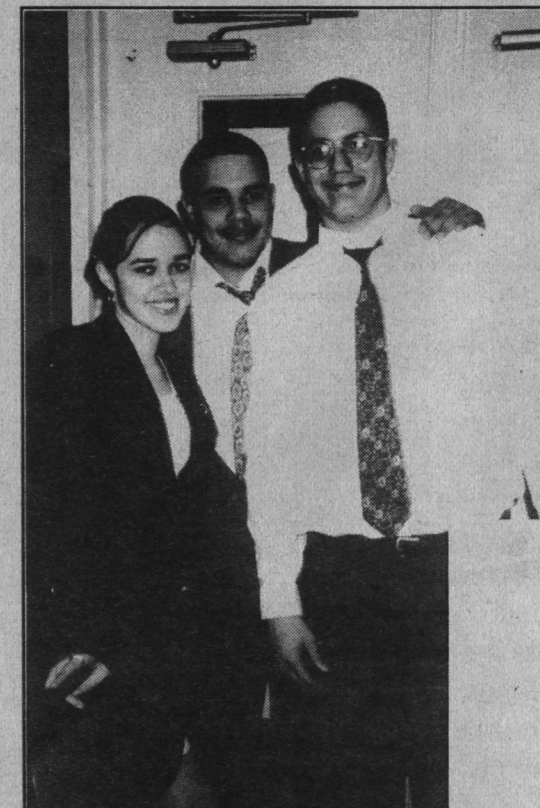
The surprised and tearful Orlando Rodriguez, current President of L.A.S.O., received an award of recognition from

Gamma Ce Upsilon Sorority Inc. "I love you all," he whispered as he humbly accepted his award. The members of the executive board of L.A.S.O. each received honors for their dedication to the organization and to the Latino Community. And the staff of En ACCIÓN received an award of recognition from L.A.S.O.

As part of the entertainment for the evening, Erica Ramos graced the audience with an accapella rendition of Ricardo Montaner's *Dejame Llorar*. In addition, Joe De Jesus, who sang at a previous ceremony, was asked to return this year to sing. His crowd pleasing performance was a reminder of why he was asked to come back.

Orlando Rodriguez chose to close the ceremony with a simple yet humorous approach; "Thank you for coming... now get out." A chorus of laughter filled the room, as everyone rose to exit the atrium, enabling the committee to set up for the dance.

After an hours wait, the gym began



Above left, page 6: Raulin y su orquesta entertained both on campus and off campus guests at this year's semi formal event.

Bottom left, page 6: ACCIÓN's own Erica Ramos singing at the semi formal dinner, along with Stony Brook alumnus, Joe DeJesus (right).

Above left: Three of LASO's executive board members who helped put together this years event.

Bottom left: Several members of various Latino organizations coming together to have a good time.

Above: Swaying to the rythms of salsa and merengue, many danced into the early hours of the next day.

to fill with people. Over three hundred people were enjoying themselves and dancing to Latin music as they eagerly awaited for the live concert performance of Salsero Raulin y su Orquesta. Once Raulin began his performance, the atmosphere was a definite crowd pleaser. Filled virtually to capacity, the dance floor was anything but empty. Those not

dancing, sat at tables socializing or even admiring the fancy foot work of others. The festive night finally came to a close at around 2 am.

The efforts of L.A.S.O. to make this year's semi formal a successful one, was very challenging. Despite some inconveniences, and even a last minute location change, L.A.S.O.'s semi-formal was still

Arroz Con Pollo Floats

LASO takes 2nd place at Regatta

By Alexander Savinon

The Bravest of students once again came out for the Seventh Annual Roth Quad Regatta. This event, which originally began as the crazy idea of three people from Roth Quad, has become more popular by the year, growing in its participants and spectators. Each year the boats have become more intricately designed and the race for first place more intense. This year the Regatta was held on April 21st, and more than twenty boats with entries from different departments, dorms, and societies competed in two categories. As it began to rain, captains and their crews appeared with their vessels for inspection and preparation of the race. Impressively the Society of Physics Student's *Commutator* captured the awards for fastest speedster and best overall boat. For the Yacht class, the *Pink Cadillac* from the administration department took the prize.

Last years winner, the *Galataya II*, was not allowed to compete in this years race due to an amendment made by the Regatta committee which now prevents boats used in previous years from being resubmitted. Apparently, they did not read the rules for this year and returned with the boat of previous years hoping to make their well known one minute debut, and leave with the prize. Their demonstration reminded us all why they were the returning champions for several years in a row. It was a shame they did not build a new boat because it would have been interesting to see if they could improve on the existing design.

The favorite category for the Latin community this year was the speedster class and it submitted *Arroz Con Pollo*, sponsored by the Latin American Students Organization (L.A.S.O.). Built in less than two weeks, this boat was designed to be a mixture between a kayak and a canoe. The design was chosen because of a kayak's ability to glide with little water resistance and a canoe's stability, which

Arroz continued on page 8

triumphant this year. As the tradition of the semi-formal continues, we all look forward to next year's upcoming events. L.A.S.O. urges and encourages all to be active participants because, "su apoyo continuo es necesario para nuestra existencia."

Latin Weekend '95

Arroz continued from page 7

resists tilting over. Seaworthy it was, as the captain and designer, Alexander Savinon, was able to demonstrate its excellent construction by completing the first heat and the finals without any catastrophes. For those that had doubts, guess what, the ore locks did hold, and very well at that! *Arroz Con Pollo* ended the day by taking home second place overall in the speedster class. This was an impressive improvement from last year's *Cafe Con Leche*, a boat which touched water and capsized.

When *Cafe Con Leche* received recognition for its achievements by L.A.S.O., it was because there were several dedicated people behind it. To my dear friend and fellow engineer Roberto Maldonado who never turned his head on me, Luis Zarate, Dominic Martinez, Jaydith Matias, Denise Rodriguez, the members of L.A.S.O. and the members of the Society of Hispanic Engineers (S.H.E.): Thank you all for your efforts, participation and ideas. If it weren't for all of you this would have never been possible.

I was told this and it must be true, *Arroz Con Pollo* must float better than *Cafe Con Leche*.

“¡Oye Como Va!”

ΣΛΒ & ΓCY hosts third annual Latin Block Party

By Romina Herrarte and Erica Ramos

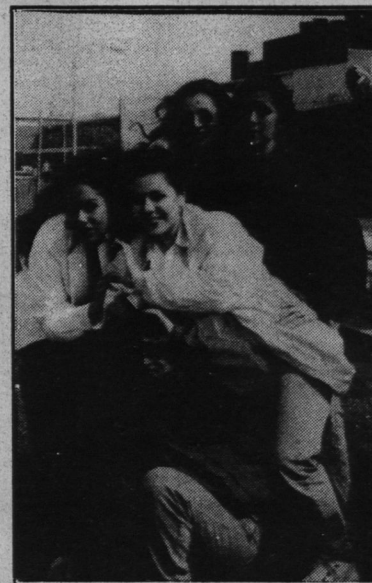
As what is quickly becoming part of tradition, the Third Annual Latin Block Party, sponsored by Gamma Ce Upsilon and Sigma Lambda Beta, was held the day after the semi-formal again. The event has become an after party of sorts to help us unwind the day after the semi-formal.

This year instead of a comedian, there was a band and a DJ. There was the usual barbecue fare of hot dogs and hamburgers, along with *platanos rellenos* and *acapurrias*. Although the day was sunny, there was wind which made it slightly chilly. In spite of the wind, many people from on and off campus came to celebrate the subculture of Latinos growing up in the United States, par-

ticularly the ones living the inner cities. There were many things to do to keep everyone entertained.

Besides the music and the food, there was also football, volleyball, and the all important dominoes tournament. This year first and third place was won by off campus guests from Washington Heights. Second place went to our own Julio Alarcon and alumnus Fernando Tirado.

The event was a success and has now become a Stony Brook institution looked forward to and expected by the Latino community. Hopefully this annual event will become even more popular and attract more people.



Annual Youth Empowerment Day a true learning experience for many Hispanics from the city

Continued from page 4

ties, and how one should take advantage of them. These resources are available and according to LASO, not be taken for granted.

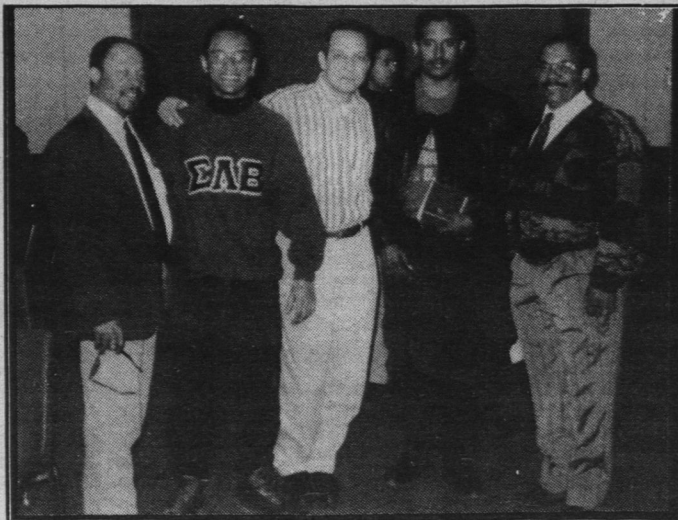
Members also addressed common urban and ethnic stereotypes, and advised students to aspire and achieve, no matter what limitations society may think they have. The students responded with extraordinary praise.

During lunch the high school students had a chance to interact with the college students and “compare notes”. It seemed that the kids had taken very well to college life so far. They were comfortable in the “college atmosphere” and aside from the young faces, blended in well with the campus scene. After an hour of mingling they were taken on a tour of the campus. Divided into several groups, they had an hour and a half to explore the picturesque settings of USB, with a LASO member as their guide. Some students were taken to several academic buildings, while others got a taste of what living on campus is like

by visiting the residence halls.

Although towards the end of the tour rain had begun to fall, Youth Empowerment Day was

an overall success. Many of the visiting students liked the idea of going to college and some even stated they wanted to attend this university.



Hector Rodriguez, Jose Torres, Tomas Rivera and Omar Cruz, members of *Alianza Dominicana*, helped make LASO's annual Youth Empowerment Day a success by providing transportation and selecting students from different schools in the city to come down to Stony Brook for the day. Jose Torres, a brother of Sigma Lambda Beta fraternity who now works at Martin Luther King Jr. High School in Manhattan, coordinated his efforts with Stony Brook to make the event possible. Tomas Rivera, the editor for *Eco Latino*, made an appearance at this year's event.

School of the Assassins

Training Latin America to kill its own people

By Melinda de Jesus and Elena Restrepo

On April 6, 1995, the Long Island Progressive Coalition sponsored a public forum in the Emma S. Clark Library in Setauket, Long Island. The forum was to discuss the School of the Americas or "School of the Assassins." A representative of the coalition, William Brody, led the discussion. He informed the audience what the school comprised of.

The School of the Americas was established in Panama in 1946 by the United States. Its purpose was to properly train Latin American military officers for war. Due to the Panama Canal treaty, the school was relocated to Fort Benning, Georgia. The school continues to train soldiers at the expense of American taxpayers.

It would be fair to say that the maintenance of the school and the soldiers was just if their purpose was to protect the people. This, however, is not the case! The soldiers are taught effective methods of physical and psychological torture. This training

is then directed towards the civilians of Latin American countries.

From this school, many military leaders have emerged and formed part of the corruption which involves the violation of the citizens' civil rights. Among the graduates of the school are Roberto D'Aubuisson of El Salvador, General Leopoldo Galteri of Argentina, General Hector Gramajo of Guatemala, Manuel Noriega of Nicaragua, and Colonel Julio Roberto Alpirez.

The result of the empowerment of these leaders has caused international concern. Their abusive techniques have allowed for the murder of thousands of people. One recent example of such an incident occurred in 1995 when Alpirez was hired by the CIA to murder the last Mayan leader, Efraim Bamaca Velasquez, husband of U.S. lawyer Jennifer Harbury. After believing that her husband had been dead since 1992, a soldier from a camp escaped and informed Harbury that he was still alive. Velasquez was being tortured by the insertion of a gas

into his body that caused his body to, literally, rupture. A doctor was kept in the room to make certain that he would not die there before prolonging the torture. After learning of her husband's murder, Harbury became a speaker for the banishment of this "school of assassins".

Another incident which occurred in the 80's in El Mozote, El Salvador was the extermination of an entire town. All its inhabitants were lined up (women and children included) and murdered at gun point. The only survivor was a woman who told of how she hid in the bushes. She stated that while the shootings were happening, she heard her children cry, "Mommy, they're killing us!" She buried her face in the dirt and cried for the death of her children. It was later estimated that out of the twenty six accused soldiers of the massacre, nineteen were graduates of the School of the Americas.

Recently, Representative Joseph Kennedy of Massachusetts proposed a

bill to close the School of the Americas. The attempt failed by marginal proportions since many of the legislators abstained. This year Rep. Kennedy will try once more to persuade legislation to close down the school. In a show of protest, his supporters led a forty day fast on the steps of the Capital. They wanted to persuade the government to pass the proposal. Although the possibility of the school being shut down is slim, the changing of its training methods and goals can be altered so that instead of killing people, the soldiers will protect them.

Presently, the School of the Americas is training Mexican military officers. With the rise of the Zapatistas in Chiapas, the school preparing these officers for possible confrontations.

In response to the film presented at the discussion which summarized the history of the School of the Americas, Public Affairs Officer, Major Gordon Martel

SOA continued on page 11

La Unidad Latina, Lambda Upsilon Lambda Fraternity, Inc. was established in the Latino tradition and spirit of pride, dignity, and equality. Founded and chartered at Cornell University in 1992, La Unidad Latina is a fraternal order established to address the needs of the Latino community.

From its inception, La Unidad Latina, Lambda Upsilon Lambda Fraternity, Inc. has been committed to enhancing the quality of life for all Latinos. In pursuit of this La Unidad Latina, Lambda Upsilon Lambda Fraternity, Inc. addresses various key issues of concern to the Latino community in ways that only an organization created by Latinos can.

In the academic realm, we continually strive to increase the representation of Latino faculty members and students within higher education. Understanding that recruitment is only one area of importance, we also place a strong emphasis on programs that aid in the selection, guidance, and completion of each student's degree program.

Realizing the importance of culture, La Unidad Latina, Lambda Upsilon Lambda Fraternity, Inc. dedicates itself to exploring and propagating the vast richness of the Latino heritage and tradition. By sharing the treasures and teachings of our past among ourselves and with those around us, we earn a respect and understanding of ourselves. This also insures that as we grow and move forward in our adult lives, we remember the significance of our roots.

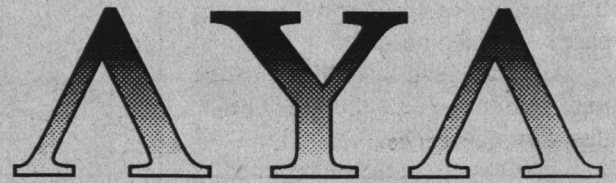
As an organization, we understand that when working towards a common purpose,

the strength of many is more efficacious than the strength of a few. As a result, we focus strongly on serving our community. This service ranges from simple volunteer work to extensive fund raising functions. All this is done and an ongoing investment into the community which has provided us with current supports and opportunities.

Finally, La Unidad Latina, Lambda Upsilon Lambda Fraternity, Inc. functions socially in a unique and positive manner by providing an atmosphere in which an Hermano can be himself while relating to others that share similar backgrounds and experience. Most importantly, in creating a feeling of familia, every Hermano has a place he can truly call home; a place where he will always be respected and supported. La Unidad Latina, Lambda Upsilon Lambda Fraternity, Inc. thus redefines the concept of brotherhood.

What we seek is to develop the qualities that will help us grow as a mature, intelligent, socially active and culturally conscious individuals. In order to achieve this goal we have currently expanded to twenty major universities on the East Coast including eight Ivy League schools. In addition, we have established four graduate chapters. La Unidad Latina, Lambda Upsilon Lambda Fraternity, Inc. is looking for individuals with vision, determination, and a commitment to the goals of our organization.

The Upsilon Chapter was officially founded at SUNY Stony Brook on Thursday, April 20, 1995. The two Hermanos that attend Stony Brook are Miguel Alonzo and Mitchell Lemos.



La Unidad Latina

Lambda Upsilon Lambda Fraternity Inc.

For further information, please contact:

Mitchell Lemos-
(516) 632-3920 or (718) 899-0494

or our

National Council President,

Ruben D. Rodriguez-
(212) 587-9117.



The Origins of the Young Lords

Part II: The Young Lords in New York

By Charlie Goméz

What led to the split between the Young Lords in Chicago and their chapter in New York? Most of the members of the Chicago chapter point to the different backgrounds of the individuals involved in both groups. The organization in Chicago was composed primarily of high school dropouts, whereas the New York chapter emerged out of a political organization. This organization, Sociedad Albizu Campos, consisted mostly of college graduates and students. The Chicago Young Lords felt that the New York chapter was too concerned with ideology when they did not have the time nor the educational background to focus on theoretical problems. On the other hand, the New Yorkers thought the Chicago Young Lords Organization was not up to leading a strong and unified national organization. After several meetings, the New York group proposed that the Chicago

leadership come to New York and join them in forming a new national program and structure, but both groups refused to leave their local organizations. The split followed as a result of these differences, even though both parties were hopeful that they could continue to work together.

After the split with the Young Lords Organization of Chicago, the New York chapter became the Young Lords Party. In spite of the separation, both groups were concerned about the same issues. The

Young Lords Party focused on inadequate health care, housing, malnutrition, and institutions that refused to serve the community.

The Young Lords first action took

place in July 1969. The group decided to clean 110th street in El Barrio, but were denied access to brooms from the

sanitation department would have to clean it up, since it was blocking the traffic. The action spread to 111th and 112th streets the following days. Each time, the Lords would hold a rally and sign up recruits. They would play a hit and run game, talking and spreading their ideology and politics. Thousands of Puerto Ricans fought the police that summer of 1969 and many of them joined the Young Lords Party.

In the fall of the same year, they started working with welfare mothers and began a door-to-door lead poisoning detection test. They also learned how to do simple blood tests for iron deficiency anemia, which was a common disease in the community. They visited the First Spanish Methodist Church in order to get permission to use its basement for their breakfast program, but when they tried to address the congregation, the police beat and arrested

"They would play a hit and run game, talking and spreading their ideology and politics."

Sanitation Department. They got together with people in the neighborhood and built a wall of garbage across Third Ave. and 110th Street, knowing that the

YLP continued on page 11

ICY



Gran Damas de la Gran Cultura Unica

For more information, please attend our

formal informational on September 18, 1995

Location: TBA at 9:30 PM sharp

or contact

Nellian V: (718) 633-5646 or

Lorena Z: (718) 377-7026

Gamma Ce Upsilon Sorority Inc., Gran Damas de la Gran Cultura Unica - was founded November 3, 1989 at the State University of New York at Stony Brook by three undergraduate and one graduate woman. These women felt it was vital to begin to look at the beauty of all Latin-American Countries and attempt some sort of unification through education, community service sisterhood.

Gamma Ce Upsilon Sorority Inc. has participated in various public services such as expressing our Latin culture through our annual Latin events and educational programs. We have also participated in Special Olympics, The Make-A-

wish foundation fundraiser, Aids Quilt, Big Brothers & Sisters, and volunteered in various hospitals and helped in soup kitchens.

Though we are a Latin-Culturally based Sorority, we are not exclusively Latin. We believe that we will prosper with our growing membership of women who identify with, and are dedicated to our struggle.

Our colors are red & black; our flower is the red Rose; our insignia is the Swan. Our motto is "Through Innovative thoughts, Come Progressive Ideas" and we strongly believe that "Without struggle there is no progress".

-Frederick Douglass

YLP continued from page 10

thirteen Lords. The women who were in the church fought as hard as the men and Young Lords considers this event the awakening of its struggle against male chauvinism. On December 28, the YLP took over the church and renamed it the People's Church. They established a free breakfast program, free clothing, health services, a day care center, a liberation school, films, community dinners, and on New Year's Eve, a revolutionary service to herald the "decade of the people". They referred to the teachings of Jesus as a people's gospel of helping others in need.

The people's support for the Young Lords was made clear at the Puerto Rican Day Parade on June 7, 1970. They interrupted the parade and marched in their purple berets as hundreds of thousands of people received them with cheers and the clenched-fist salute. The community also showed unconditional support when the Young Lords chief-of-staff, Juan "Fi" Ortiz was falsely accused on charges of kidnaping, armed robbery, and assault. The next morning four different newspapers published four contradictory versions of his supposed crime. The night of the arrest hundreds of people protested at a rally in front of the People's Church.

YLP chairman Felipe Luciano told the crowd, "We will not allow the brutalization of our community to go without response. For every Puerto Rican who is brutalized, there will be a retaliation." The crowd raised YLP banners and marched through the streets of El Barrio singing, "Despierta, Boricua. Defiende lo tuyo"- "Awake, Puerto Rican. Defend what is yours."

At 5:30 am on July 18, approximately 200 Puerto Rican men and women took over Lincoln Hospital in the South Bronx to turn it over to the community. Their demands included door-to-door health services for preventative care, sanitary control, nutrition, maternal and child care, drug addiction care, day care and senior citizen's service, a 24 hour grievance table, and a \$140 minimum weekly wage for all workers. At that point there were flags and banners in the windows saying, "Bienvenido al hospital del pueblo"- "Welcome to the People's Hospital". By the time the 150 police officers arrived at Lincoln there was no one inside except for the employees. The police left and removed the Puerto Rican flag from the hospital roof.

The YLP promoted their agenda through their own paper called Palante. Their identity as a politician and revolutionary party was made known through their 13 point platform and program,

which was the following:

The Young Lords Party is a Revolutionary Political Party Fighting for the Liberation of All Oppressed People

1. We want self determination for Puerto Ricans, liberation on the island and inside the United States.
 2. We want self determination for all Latinos.
 3. We want liberation of all third world people.
 4. We are revolutionary nationalists and oppose racism.
 5. We want equality for women. Down with machismo and male chauvinism.
 6. We want community control of our institutions and land.
 7. We want a true education of our Afro-Indio culture and Spanish language.
 8. We oppose capitalists and alliances with traitors.
 9. We oppose the Amerikkkan military.
 10. We want our freedom for all political prisoners and prisoners of war.
 11. We are internationalists.
 12. We believe armed self-defense and armed struggle are the only means of liberation.
 13. We want a socialist society.
- Hasta La Victoria Siempre!*

SOA continued from page 9

states, "The film is strictly one-sided, deliberate and clear of purpose in what it chooses to portray as fact." It is obvious that throughout the letter, Martel stems away from its content and mentions programs which have nothing to do with the horrendous attacks on their own people. He chooses to ignore the facts by portraying the school as a military necessity for Latin America.

The School of the Americas affects the United States because tax money goes into maintaining the school and training "assassins". The public should be aware of this indirect support. Without their knowledge, American taxpayers are supporting something they do not believe in and probably do not know about. It violates human rights and distorts our belief system.

Infamous graduates of the SOA

- Manuel Noriega and Omar Torrijos- Panama
- Roberto d' Aubuisson - El Salvador
- Roberto Viola and Leopoldo Galtieri - Argentina
- Michael François - Haiti

Sigma Iota Alpha, Inc. is a new Sorority in the Greek world. It is unique in that we promote the Latin American culture and give the individual the opportunity to learn and grow. La Hermandad (the sisterhood) de Sigma Iota Alpha, Inc. was founded on September 29, 1990. We came to exist because of a need for a voice in the Latin community at college campuses at large. Presently, we have nine chapters in New York State, four out of state and we are expanding rapidly nation-wide.

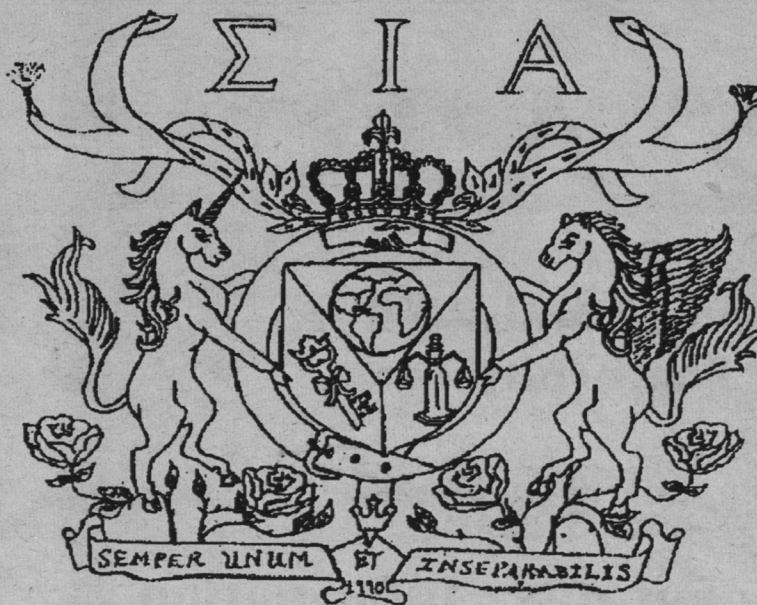
Sigma Iota Alpha's goals are to strive toward the awareness of the Latin culture, promote sisterhood and leadership, and stand for excellence and academic scholarship among women. Through the encouraged awareness of the Latin culture, the sorority hopes to educate and unify those of the diverse Latin cultures as well as those of all ethnic groups. In doing so, we are helping to abolish ignorance, prejudice, and racism in the community at large.

Nationally, we have participated in Special Olympics, The March of Dimes, Walk-America, and

Multiple Sclerosis Walk-a-Thon. We also have a national scholarship given annually and participate in the Puerto Rican Day Parade in New York City. On this respective campus, Sigma Iota Alpha is currently involved with the Breast Cancer Walk at Stony Brook, Hispanic Heritage Month, Opening Week Activities, Oxfam America, and 'Tis the Season. Currently, we are sponsoring a girl from Mexico through Christian Children's International.

Sigma Iota Alpha, Inc. is a unique learning experience. We will challenge and stimulate you in ways you never imagined. We will test your resourcefulness, adaptability, and ingenuity. We do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, or disability. In the sorority, you are always presented as an intelligent and professional woman without losing your integrity, self-respect or femininity.

COLORS: Red, Gold, and Royal Blue
FLOWER: Red Rose
INSIGNIA: Unicorn and Pegasus
MOTTO: Semper unem et inseparabilis



La Hermandad de Sigma Iota Alpha Sorority Inc.

For more information, please write or call at the number below...

Hermandad de Sigma Iota Alpha, Inc. National Executive Board P. O. Box 280574 Queens Village, NY 11428	Hermandad de Sigma Iota Alpha, Inc. Beta Chapter Stony Brook Union Rm. #266 Stony Brook, NY 11794
---	--

Jessica Soto | Arlene Young
(516) 632-1869

Latin American artists bring life to the LACS Center

By Olga Pineda

An innocuous door in SBS blocks the entrance to the Latin American & Caribbean Center, where twice a week all who enter are enthralled by the art. On the walls, Hispanic and Latin American art stream forth, a forceful conversation for any who care to enter into it.

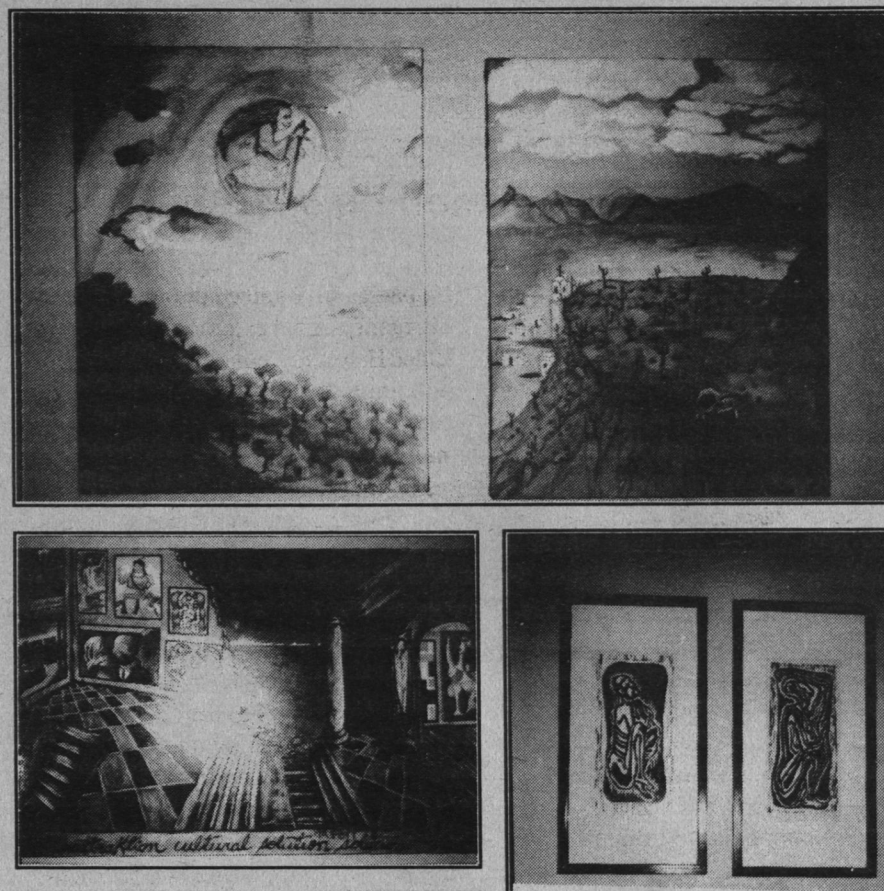
One artist, Tabo Toral, paints surreal comments on the culture of our times. His works include "Attracción cultural" or "Cultural attraction" a phonetic trick that teases the mind as does his work. His canvasses are large crazy quilts, products of our piece-meal culture, casually displaying images of such notable artists as Frida Kahlo, Picasso, Dada, Diego Rivera and even Keith Herring. True reflections of our times, they also contain horrific images of peace and violence, blood and sunshine, as if seen through a child's surreal eyes.

Zenaida Madurka, a Ph.D. candidate here at USB, continues the commentary of our times by dynamically projecting the images of women in her woodcuts. Her work is evocative and provocative. In "Swimmer" a woman moves forward through the waters with grace

and strength but in "Oblivion" we see a woman, her back to us as she folds into herself as if hurt and seeking shelter and solace within. "Entre paredes" (Between Walls) along with a few others definitely speak of imprisonment, oppression and displacement, familiar feelings to women of many cultures. The clarity in her imagery is poignant and admirable.

Last, but not least, Werner Stadler grounds us within the roots of Latin American art with mystic images from Argentinean mythology. He gives them life with a brush that is humorous and rich in color. "La Salamanca" depicts the devils cave where women come to be witches. The darkness of the cave is broken by a bloody, fiery light and the silence by the image of a devilish piper playing while enchanting the woman who happened onto the scene. His paintings are often eerie and always tell their story well.

The whole of the exhibit was not only enjoyable but also enlightening and certainly worth the time to find it. Take some time and find the LAC Center, SBS N-320, Wednesdays 2:15 - 3:15 and Thursdays 1-2 pm.



Samples of the artwork at the LACS Center. Photos courtesy of Marcia Wiener of The Union Crafts Center.

Σ Λ Β

Sigma Lambda Beta Fraternity Inc.



"Opportunity for wisdom, wisdom for culture"

**For more information,
please contact...**

**Jose Martinez, President,
PI Chapter—Stony Brook**

(516) 632-4199

(212) 304-4782

Sigma Lambda Beta Fraternity, Inc. is a national Latino Fraternity that was founded on April 4, 1986 at the University of Iowa. At this moment the fraternity extends from California to New York. Sigma Lambda Beta is located in a total of forty one schools. Some of the locations are schools such as Michigan State University, Indiana University, Colorado State University, Illinois State University, and Kansas State University just to name a few. The fraternity first came to the East Coast on April 11, 1992 with the establishment of the Powerful Pi (P) chapter here at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. Now on the East Coast there is one more chapter at Pace Univer-

sity and two colonies at SUNY at Old Westbury and New York University.

The motto of the fraternity is "Opportunity for Wisdom, Wisdom for Culture" and its colors Purple and White. Sigma Lambda Beta is a social fraternity that promotes the Latino culture through brotherhood, scholarship services, and cultural awareness. By emphasizing these four concepts Sigma Lambda Beta wants to disseminate the rich Latino culture to the Latino community and the Stony Brook community as a whole. A vision that Sigma Lambda Beta has is that of Latinos, as a whole, communicating with each other and with society as a whole.

Latino leaders address the issues and offer solutions

The Long Island Hispanic/Latino Leadership Summit publishes report with HSC on the condition of Hispanics in NYS and ways of improving ourselves.

According to the latest U.S. Census in 1990, the Hispanic/Latino population surpassed 22,354,000 in the United States, 2,214,000 in New York State and 165,000 in the Suffolk/Nassau region. Current estimates indicate that between the years 2000 and 2010, Hispanics will become the largest minority subgroup in the United States. Their regional population is predicted to easily surpass 250,000 by the year 2000. Clearly, Hispanics represent a growing community and their issues must be addressed.

On July 24, 1993, the Long Island Chapter of the National Conference of Puerto Rican Women sponsored The Long Island Hispanic/Latino Leadership Summit. This unprecedented convocation focused on identifying the major issues and concerns that impact the Long Island Hispanic/Latino community.

More than 50 Hispanic leaders, including directors of national and local organizations, educators, professionals, corporate executives, business owners, appointed officials and scholars formed a broad-based, non-partisan group that proposed important solutions for the Suffolk/Nassau region in each of four target areas: education, health, public and social services, and economic development. Each area was carefully reviewed by a committee.

Committee deliberations and recommendations, as summarized in the report, are organized to reflect identified goals and implementation strategies for each area of concern.

HISTORY

In this final decade of the century, Hispanic leaders have initiated what is perhaps their most ambitious attempt to achieve national unity. They are motivated by the realization that Hispanics today are no longer a parochial special interest group to be dismissed or ignored. In the 1990's, the vision of the Hispanic community's emerging national leadership is that Hispanic issues are American issues.

The Long Island Hispanic/Latino Leadership Summit sought a structural base to provide Hispanic Americans with a clear, central voice that would project a powerful impact on issues of public policy and community concern. The effort holds great promise, by virtue of the sophistication and wisdom Long Island

Hispanics have gained through decades of organizational experience. The Long Island Hispanic/Latino Leadership Summit, a one-day "think tank", represented diverse segments of the Latino community throughout Long Island. Inclusiveness—not competitiveness—was the essential strategy underlying this leadership initiative. It does not duplicate the work of other Hispanic groups. It seeks, instead, to transcend regional, political and other special interests as it addresses the needs of all Hispanic Americans on Long Island.

The Leadership Summit's plan of action called for drafting this consensus-based document, which outlines the issues and concerns facing Hispanics not only on Long Island but across the nation.

EDUCATION

If one issue above all others could be singled out as important for Hispanics, it would be education. The education issue has, perhaps, the most profound, long-term implication for America's future.

Education serves as a central link for all major issues in the Hispanic/Latino community. As the issues of housing, health, poverty, civil rights and public safety affect an individual's ability to receive a good education, so the quality of his/her education affects the issues cited above.

The education committee identified a number of concerns and offered several strategies that could help rectify the intolerable educational inequities for Hispanics/Latinos in America. Such examples addressed; the high drop-out rate among Hispanic/Latino students, lack of multicultural educational materials to assist children with limited English-speaking abilities and the lack of cultural sensitivity within the school community. Other issues included; the lack of Hispanic/Latino teachers to serve as mentors and role models, low proportion of Hispanics/Latinos employed in school governance, and the lack of a database on the educational needs of the Hispanic/Latino community.

HEALTH

The health committee agreed that neither public or private health care institutions have adequately assessed the health care needs of the Hispanic/Latino

population nor developed the strategies necessary to address those health needs. The needs of Hispanics on Long Island have been grouped with the needs of Hispanics in New York City. The truth is that Hispanics on Long Island represent a very diverse group of individuals—from seasonal migrant workers to established professionals and business leaders. One thing is clear: the health issues that affect the Hispanic community have an impact on the larger community. For example, studies and reports have documented that Hispanics lack health insurance, underutilize health care facilities, view the health care system as insensitive to their particular needs, have difficulty accessing the system and find language to be a barrier. (Healthy People 2000, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 1990; TODOS, Surgeon General's National Hispanic Latino Initiative, June 1993.) For the Hispanic/Latino community, the significant failings of the health-care system place society as a whole in danger.

Therefore, the community at large must take the initiative and responsibility to hold agencies and institutions accountable. These efforts can be undertaken in partnership with the Hispanic community, by together examining and acting on the issues and goals identified by the health committee. Such goals included; the creation of a network of bilingual health care providers, encouraging health related research targeting the Hispanic/Latino community, increasing the numbers of Hispanics/Latinos in the health-care professions and allied fields, eliminating the enabling behaviors of communicable diseases in the Hispanic/Latino community as well as to increase access to prenatal services.

PUBLIC AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Viewed within the context of socioeconomic, environmental and political circumstances confronting the Hispanic family, it is evident that a wide disparity exists between the social status of Hispanic families and that of the majority population. The Summit's public and social services committee agreed that unemployment, poverty, crime, public safety, racism, immigration and acculturation strongly impact one's physical and mental well-being. Such conditions bear on the lives of many

Hispanics and their families. "Fifty percent of all children in New York State live in poverty," according to the Association of Puerto Rican Executive Directors' Legislative Agenda for 1989-1990, December 1989. This issue served as the underlying rallying point for the Summit's public and social services committee to identify the many areas for discussion. Some of the goals that the committee sought to achieve were; providing services to everyone in need, increase their accessibility and that of uninformed emergency services as well. One of the main issues in this committee dealt with the strained relations between the Hispanic/Latino community and the police. The committee seeks to assure the Latino community that the police department is not an arm of the Immigration and Naturalization Service. They also discussed the possibility of developing a cooperative relationship between police officers and the Latino community.

ECONOMICS

The economics committee noted that many Hispanics face poverty, lack of access to financial resources and an array of barriers to their advancement. Further, Hispanics suffer from high levels of unemployment and underemployment. Nevertheless, Hispanics are a rapidly growing, major segment of the U.S. work force and job market.

If the Long Island region is to remain strong, competitive and viable, particular attention must focus on the economic needs and aspirations of the growing number of Hispanics on the Island. Careful attention must also be given to the economic issues identified by this committee since they directly impact the economic opportunities of Hispanics and the greater community. Each of these issues dealt with the integration of the Hispanic/Latino community into the business community and the job market.

CONCLUSION

The Hispanic/Latino population on Long Island, and in the State of New York, faces difficult problems and issues in coming to grips with its growing size, its needs and the maintenance of its identity in our diverse society.

The concerns and strategies outlined in this report will help spark public

Study continued on page 20

Recapping the last three years of "ACCIÓN"

Evolving from the single column in BLACKWORLD to the voice of Latinos at Stony Brook

Stony Brook en **¡ACCIÓN!**
 Siempre Luchando y Bregando
 Vol. I, No. 1 October 2, 1992

A New Stepping Stone

by Fernando Tirado

Some people on the Stony Brook campus might ask, "Why the need for a Latino-based publication?" Issues involving Latino concerns at Stony Brook are not currently being addressed due to the lack of interest on the part of the already existing publications. By creating a Latino-based paper, we are targeting the needs and interests of this ever-increasing population at the Stony Brook campus. This paper is to act as a medium to promote Latino culture and pride by making our campus population aware of Latino issues and events both on and off campus.

The idea of creating a Latino-based paper was initially acted upon by the Brotherhood of Sigma Lambda Beta Fraternity. Through their hard work and dedication, they hope to open the minds of the people on campus to the importance of cultural heritage and to strengthen a Latino unity. Thereby providing a means for enlightening the campus population through the encouragement of cultural diversity and social involvement. We hope that this paper will have an impact on the campus, particularly in getting more Latinos involved within the Stony Brook community as well as their own communities. We also wish to address the severity of the negative stereotypical attitudes in regard to Latinos and find a way to present a more positive change. We encourage faculty, students, and community leaders to contact this publication in order to broaden the view of our knowledge of our reality.

Let us as Latinos tear down the walls that build a new future generation of our community, and

S.H.E. Makes a Comeback

Society of Hispanic Engineers Building A New Future
 by Raul Jimenez

The Society of Hispanic Engineers (S.H.E.) are to advance Latino sciences. Its other objectives are to advance Latino success.

BLACKWORLD
 Stony Brook ONE NATION
 en **ACCIÓN** PAGE 14
 November 11, 1993 The Latino supplement to BLACKWORLD newspaper Vol. II, no. 3

En Nueva York También Somos Puertorriqueños

We are also Puerto Rican in New York.

por Charlie Gómez Castro

"Nuestro propósito es ser una voz para los puertorriqueños en Nueva York..."

En Nueva York, también somos puertorriqueños. Aunque a veces nos sentimos aislados, nuestra cultura y nuestras raíces nos conectan con millones de otros puertorriqueños que viven en esta gran ciudad. Es importante que nuestra voz sea escuchada y que nuestras preocupaciones sean tomadas en cuenta.

El propósito de esta publicación es servir a la comunidad puertorriqueña en Nueva York, ofreciendo información, noticias y opiniones sobre temas que nos afectan. Queremos crear un espacio donde podamos expresarnos libremente y compartir nuestras experiencias.

Este suplemento de Blackworld es un primer paso hacia ese objetivo. Esperamos que sea un punto de partida para futuras colaboraciones y que nos ayude a construir una comunidad más fuerte y unida.

ONDA NUEVA

Stony Brook's own Salsa and Latin Jazz radio show
 Featuring "Felipito" Palacios
 WUSB, 90.1 FM
 Saturdays, 3:00-5:30 p.m.

LAPS and the Dept. of Hispanic Lang. & Lit. are hosting a Poetry Contest*
 Deadline: November 15

Prizes given out on December 7 at the undergraduate symposium at the Humanities Institute located on the fourth floor of the library.

1st prize—\$75 certificate
 2nd prize—\$50 certificate
 3rd prize—\$25 certificate

*All poems must be in Spanish. No more than 5 poems per applicant.

Stony Brook en **ACCIÓN**
 Vol. III, No. 1
 November 23, 1994
 The Latino Student Feature Magazine at USB

Networks on Notice

Study: Latino TV characters often negative or absent

Western television networks have been criticized for their portrayal of Latinos. A recent study found that Latino characters on TV are often stereotypical and negative. The study also noted that there is a significant lack of Latino representation in television news and public affairs.

The study, conducted by a group of Latino students, analyzed a wide range of television programs. It found that Latino characters are often portrayed in a way that reinforces negative stereotypes. For example, they are frequently shown in roles that are limited to crime, social issues, or as victims of discrimination.

The researchers also noted that there is a significant gap in the representation of Latinos in television news and public affairs. They argued that this lack of representation is not only inaccurate but also harmful to the Latino community, as it perpetuates negative perceptions and stereotypes.

The study called for greater diversity and accuracy in the portrayal of Latinos on television. It urged networks and producers to create more complex and realistic characters that reflect the true diversity of the Latino population.

Stony Brook en **ACCIÓN**
 December 15, 1994
 The Latino Student Feature Magazine of USB Vol. III, No. 2

New director and agenda for LAC Center expanding its goals

HSC conducts its first study on Hispanics

Study revolves around issues such as education, health


The all-new Onda Nueva Music Review

"Tu sabero favorito" joins ACCIÓN to report on what's going on in the Latin music industry

Latinos vs. Prop. 187

Latino students and organizations express outrage over California's new anti-immigration law

High school students rally on steps of Los Angeles City Hall November 7 to oppose anti-immigration Proposition 187, which voters approved the next by a 3-2 margin.



ACCIÓN 10/19/93

To Press for Change

A Look at the Last 20 Years of Latinos in Stony Brook

This year's Hispanic Heritage Month was welcomed with many new changes that will make lasting marks within the Latino community. The opening of the new Latin American and Caribbean Studies Center over at SBS, which is designed to inform students of the vital changes affecting Latinos in those regions, promises to be a major contribution to Latino awareness. The first annual Hispanic Heritage Month Scholarship Fund was established, with the funds coming from various donations and the opening ceremonies party held earlier this month. Recent traditions, such as Copacabana, Merchant's Day, and Youth Empowerment Day, mark the continuing success of Latino awareness and achievements. The rise of new Latino-based fraternities and sororities have given Latinos the option to form stronger ties with their heritage and others around them. En ACCIÓN and the Latin American Poetry Society (LAPS) have been instrumental in bringing to Latinos on campus many forms in which they can express themselves. However, the major-

ity of the success stems from the oldest of the Latino-based organizations, the Latin American Students Organization (LASO).

The origins of LASO demonstrate the struggles Latinos have had to face over the last 20 years of its inception. LASO was not always known as it is now. It was, from 1968-1974, known as the Puerto Rican Student Organization, due to the very little representation of other Latinos on campus. However, someone proposed to not only make a change in the organization, but in the very name of the organization itself.

In an interview with Luis A. Pagán, now the associate director for the Puerto Rican Federal Affairs Administration, he talks about how the name LASO came about and some of the struggles that it faced in the years following.

Although he never held an executive position for LASO, he was instrumental in fighting for the organization's rights, especially when it came to the organization's structure and budget. A Puerto Rican himself, he talked on how he had to challenge the organization in order

to make it stronger. In 1974, he proposed to then president of PRSO Frank Perez that the name of the organization should be changed to LASO. He wanted this done to include other Latinos who were not represented on campus and to increase the organization's power base. Unfortunately, it was voted down, but that did not stop him from continuing to support and fight for change. The following year, with Perez gone and an influx of new members, Pagán once again proposed to have the name of the organization changed. In early 1975, Pagán was successful, and the name LASO was born.

However, that was only the beginning of Pagán's struggles. Polity tried to cut LASO's budget twice in '78 and '79. In 1978, Polity had completed their budget plan and given LASO only \$300 out of the \$4000 asked. Pagán kept the Senate past one in the morning until they had restored LASO's budget to the requested amount. In 1979, Polity had cut off all funding for the organization. Once again, Pagán took action, and with the help of some of the members staged a sit-

in protest in the Polity office. He then locked himself in the office with the others and demanded to the Polity president that he sit down and discuss the reinstatement of LASO's budget. Pagán stated that if he didn't use these "guerrilla tactics", the problems would only continue. He even hung the phone up twice when the Polity president went to answer it, because he would not let anything or anyone distract him from obtaining his objectives. After heated negotiations, Polity conformed, and LASO's budget was once again saved.

When you reflect on the efforts of Latino organizations on campus, especially in the '90's you noticed a pattern that has been consistent with the trend that Pagán unknowingly may have created, and that is the desire to press for change. His unselfish desire to help the Latino community progress and survive in Stony Brook should be something that Latinos today should reflect upon. As we continue to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, let us also remember those who had fought so hard to get us this far, and continue to press forward to bring a brighter future for those to come.

ACCIÓN 2/23/93

Efforts to Start Latin Council are Underway

by Arlene Young

On Wednesday, February 10 in the Student Union, all the Latino club presidents as well as the Latino fraternity and sorority leaders came together to discuss the creation of a stronger Latino community on campus. Along with their advisors, these Latino student leaders came to discuss the reformation of the Latin Council, a program that began initially during the spring '92 semester with the

aid of Carmen Vasquez, Director of Student Activities. However, due to the timing and a very busy fall semester, the Latin organizations weren't able to continue this program.

The purpose for establishing such a council is to further develop the leadership and career development skills for Latinos. It is also used as a platform to increase the visibility of Latinos within the University and to encourage other people and groups

Promises of unity through Latin Council

Latino student leaders and advisors

meet to bridge the gap

to get involved. The council meetings in the past have been used as a means of conflict resolution and plans to continue this function in the future. Finally, the council will be used to schedule events as a whole and for the individual organizations to support one another in these events.

Also discussed in this meeting are conference dates geared to Latino empowerment as well as providing information in regards to jobs, leadership

skills, bicultural and bilingual education, and representation.

The Latin Council plans to meet early next month to further discuss guidelines and strengthening the foundation for this organization. Information regarding the Latin Council meetings and other information will be passed on through the various organizations composing the council and other resources as well.

ACCIÓN 3/24/94

The Role of Latinas in Today's Society

Homemaker vs. Working Mother

By Marilyn Ramirez

Today's Latina has many more opportunities open to them than their mothers, despite the fact that they come from a culture dominated by machismo. In the past, they were locked into the roles of mother and homemaker. Now many are achieving success outside the home as well by incorporating the roles of homemaker, mother and working woman.

Latinas today have many role models within the public sector that are visible to us all. In New York City there are several Latinas holding key positions in politics and business. Jacqueline Rivera is the Assistant Treasurer of Chemical Bank. She began as manager of Chemical's Latino market division. Ninfa Segarra is the Deputy Mayor in the new Guiliani Administration. She is an accomplished attorney as well as the mother of two. Daisy

Exposito was the producer of Visiones, a TV show geared to Latinos in New York and discussing important issues in the Latino community.

In order for Latinas to be successful today we must incorporate into our lives four qualities. These qualities are independence, education, commitment to hard work, and self-confidence. These qualities are vital for Latinas to continue the progress we have already made.

Latinas must be independent. We must face reality. In order to achieve we must do it ourselves. No one will do anything for us. If you want something you need to set a goal and work towards it. Our future is in our own hands.

Independence in Latinas breaks many traditional roles. No longer must we depend on our families for everything or on a man. We should be our own person. Don't be locked into being something that you're not happy with.

Education is important to Latinas because it is a source of empowerment. Education will open our minds to new ideas and perspectives. It also will give us better chances for success in the workplace. It gives us more opportunities and more career choices. With these choices and opportunities we prosper financially as well as socially. We can continue to achieve a higher socioeconomic status.

Hard work is a quality that is central to our success. We must be willing to go beyond the boundaries and to give instead of one hundred percent, we must give one hundred and ten percent. Latinas have two strikes against them. They are a double minority, they are minorities both in gender and in race.

Today Latinas must be willing to work harder. Especially if they want to raise a family. With the problems of our society raising a family becomes

more and more difficult. If we intend to have a career outside the home and raise a family we must be committed to our goals and to their achievement.

Most of all Latinas must have a strong sense of self-confidence. We must know that our dreams can become a reality. We must continue to tell ourselves that success is out there. But most of all we must know that our goals can be achieved and that success is within our reach.

Role models are those who inspire us to grow as individuals and teach us to achieve greater results. They can be the women who stays home, and cares for her children as well. These role models are our mothers, aunts and sisters. Once we have achieved success, we must remember that we have a responsibility to future generations and to our community to be the next generation of role models.

ACCIÓN 4/18/94

Puerto Ricans used as guinea pigs

U.S. Charges of Radiation Experiments on Political Prisoners

por Charlie Gómez

As a result of revelations by the U.S. Department of Energy about experiments on human subjects, the Puerto Rican senate is demanding information on Puerto Ricans who were used in these experiments. Eudaldo Baez Galib of Puerto Rico's senate stated that the United States has carried out illegal experiments in Puerto Rico, such as testing the defoliant Agent Orange in the Puerto Rican rainforest before it was used in Vietnam and birth control pills on Puerto Rican women to see the effects they might have had on them without their knowledge or consent.

These experiments were not only conducted on Puerto Ricans, but on U.S. soldiers and citizens as well. Many Puerto Ricans that were arrested for advocating independence were exposed to radioactive phosphorus without their knowledge or their consent. According to history professor Pedro Aponte Vázquez, our independence

leader Pedro Albizu Campos claimed that he was being tortured with radiation while he was in La Princesa prison of San Juan. Aponte said, "If it was done on innocent people and with the troops that defended the U.S., how would it not be done against a revolutionary leader who was against the military occupation of Puerto Rico? No wonder many nationalists that were in prison during that time (1950's) had suffered from cancer."

This kind of genocide did not start in the 1950's, but as far back as 1931 when Luis Baldoni, a laboratory technician at the Hospital Presbiteriano in San Juan, Puerto Rico, found a handwritten letter by the U.S. doctor Cornelius P. Rhoads to his friend F.W. Stewart. This letter is still relevant 63 years later because of the recent revelations by the U.S. Department of Energy regarding these experiments. This letter caused panic and terror in Puerto Rico.

I'm sure that the letter that you

are about to read will make you as mad as it made me when I read it. It was published in Spanish in El diario/La Prensa and it reads like this:

"Los puertorriqueños son sin duda la raza de hombres más sucia, haragana, degenerada y ladrona que haya habitado este planeta. Uno se enferma de tener que habitar la misma isla con ellos. Son peores que los italianos. Lo que la isla necesita no es servicio de salud pública, sino una marejada o algo para exterminar totalmente a la población. Entonces pudiera ser habitable. Yo he hecho lo mejor que he podido para acelerar el proceso de exterminación matando a ocho y transplantándole cancer a algunos otros. Esto último no ha causado muertes todavía... El

Continued on page 17



Pedro Albizu Campos revealing the burn marks on his legs. He charged the U.S. with exposing him to radiation while at La Princesa prison in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Photo archive of the Hunter College Center for Puerto Rican Studies.

ACCIÓN 5/5/94

Acceptance vs. Retention

Latinos and the education system

By Romina Herrarte and Fernando Tirado

Although more Latinos are going to college than ever before, a greater proportion nationwide fail to graduate. This is according to a study released by the American Council on Education (ACE).

The study claims that, nationwide only 41% of Latino college students graduate from a four-year institution; these graduates, it is estimated, complete their education in six years. These figures are compared to the proportion of Whites, Blacks and Asians also attending college.

Stony Brook had more Latino students graduate in 1992 than in 1987, but they still fall short as compared to other ethnic groups. The facts, according to Institutional Services at Stony Brook, are that between the years 1984-1987 roughly 50% of Latino students enrolled, received their Bachelor Degrees within six years (The graduation rate for the entire student body being well over 55%).

And while the decrease in the Latino dropout rate is encouraging, enrollment has only increased marginally. On average, the freshman enrollment rate of Latinos has only been 121 students between 1984-1993. The first noticeable increase in enrollment occurred in 1993 when it went up to 163. The reason the Latino freshmen enrollment appears to have increased is due to a decrease in White freshmen enrollment. Data from Institutional Services at Stony Brook shows an 18% drop in White freshman enrollment while Latino and Black freshman enrollment has increased by only 4.3% each. Despite claims by USB officials that the University has become a more diverse community, the Latino student population has grown less than 3% in the past decade. This is due to problems they face getting into and staying in the higher education system.

Ana Maria Torres, Director of Financial Aid, cites several of these problems. One reason why so many

Latinos leave Stony Brook, according to Torres, is due to personal problems at home. Many Latinos also leave because Stony Brook does not offer the major they want.

However, the situation is much more complex. Many of the Latinos coming to Stony Brook today graduated from public schools in and around New York City. "In general, the current public school system in the city of New York does not prepare students well enough for a school as competitive as Stony Brook" says Mrs. Torres.

She then went on to say that the University bureaucracy impedes student progress on the academic level. "When students are worrying about how to pay for college, they have to take time out to remedy the situation, usually at the expense of their education."

Other factors that were mentioned were the lack of bilingual services on campus to help out those students whose primary language is not English. These students find it difficult to take care of

their personal matters and feel alienated by student services that are supposed to help them.

Mrs. Torres concluded that the financial situation of many Latinos gives them the most difficulty in staying in college. Many Latinos, and other students as well, end up getting a full-time job or second part-time job to pay for tuition. That combined with the limited classes being offered makes it tougher for students to graduate in four years. Students that stay longer end up paying for the added expense. Latinos and many other students, especially from the inner city, don't have the resources to continue with their education in this manner. Many end up leaving school and join the work force, vowing to return. This is seldom the case. Latinos fall into the same cycle as students before them, returning to school later in life or not at all.

Carmen Vasquez, Director of Student Union and Activities, adds that

Educ. continued on page 18

U.S. Admits to Having Performed Radiation and Other Tests on Puerto Ricans.

Continued from page 16

asunto de considerar el bienestar de los pacientes no tiene aquí ninguna importancia- de hecho los médicos se deleitan con la tortura y el abuso de los infortunados sujetos."

As you can see in this letter, Dr. Rhoads confessed to having killed eight people and giving cancer to many others. You would think that someone who confesses to a crime like this would be sent to jail immediately for the rest of his life. Well, this didn't happen. The colonial authorities of Puerto Rico allowed this murderer to escape to the United States. They ran a mediocre investigation and Rhoads was not even accused of his crime.

This event enraged a man named Pedro Albizu Campos and he started to accuse the government of trying to exterminate the Puerto Rican people. Pedro Albizu Campos was a magna cum laude graduate of Harvard in chemical engineering and possessed a Harvard law degree. However, his

fight for Puerto Rican independence led him to be considered a terrorist and a subversive. His actions generated animosity between him and the U.S. and led the American government in a campaign to silence him. Little did he know that 20 years later he would become a victim of these radioactive experiments himself. The government wanted to eliminate him in a scientific way. The purpose was to cause a heart attack or a stroke so that there would be no one would be to blame. Why? Because he was endangering the North American presence in South America and the Caribbean with his nationalism.

While Albizu Campos was in jail in Atlanta, they put another prisoner with tuberculosis in his cell. The prisoner told him that he did not know why he was put in that cell with Albizu Campos, who was supposed to be in solitary confinement. This was the United States's first attempt to kill him indirectly. It was known that Albizu got the disease, but survived. The tortures

that he went through in Atlanta caused the development of a heart condition.

Albizu Campos returned to the island in 1947 and led the rebellion of 1950 against the governor of Puerto Rico, Luis Muñoz Marín and the failed attempt to assassinate the president of the U.S., Harry S. Truman and the attack on the House of Representatives in 1954. He was captured and sent to La Princesa jail in San Juan. A year had not passed when Albizu announced for the first time that he was being exposed to radiation, the effects of which he was starting to feel. His declaration was recorded by Rafael Troyano de los Ríos in 1951. This declaration was hidden by the U.S. government until recently published. Because of this the Secretary of Justice of Puerto Rico sent a psychiatrist to declare him as "insane". The purpose of this was to take away the validity of his testimony, but off course there was nothing

they could do about the burns all over his body, especially on his sexual organs and his swollen and badly burned legs. The pictures of his burned body were shown in El diario/La Prensa in January of 1994. Now that the U.S. Department of Energy has declared that these experiments actually took place with other prisoners as well, it is time for us to wake up as a nation and realized that the damage that the North American imperialism has not been only a social damage. They have exploited our society, our culture and even the bodies of our people. What is next, our minds? Well, they have already done that. It was proven that mind control and behavior modification experiments were also done on American citizens and nothing is being done about it. As Rubén Blades said in one of his songs: "...pueden matar la gente, pero no puede matar la idea."

¡DESPIERTA BORICUA!

Latinas and HIV/AIDS

As numbers increase, so should awareness

By Vanessa Nuñez

There is a problem in the Latino community concerning Latinas and the acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). There is a misconception that the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) is the same as the acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). This is especially true in the inner-city Latino population. Unfortunately, this misconception has caused the loss of many lives. Since many Latino students on this campus are from an inner-city, the information in this article is especially pertinent to them.

To set the record straight, and to prevent any more lives lost, more people need to educate themselves. According to an article published in an issue of Hispanic magazine (Sept. 93), "since 1981, 74 percent of all reported cases of AIDS among women are from Hispanic and Black women." This means that Latinas and Black women make up the majority of women infected with AIDS

in the United States. "AIDS is now the leading cause of death among Hispanic women ages 25 - 44 in New York City."

There are many reasons why this is so. Despite what many might think, the increase of AIDS in the Latino community has nothing to do with ethnicity. However, culture does play an unfortunate role in the spread of this disease in the Latino community. Sex is a cultural taboo. Part of this fear comes from the idea that sex is only for procreation and not for pleasure. This attitude towards sex ignores reality. Because of this sexual taboo, sex education in the Latino community is non-existent, especially when

it comes to women and adolescents. This lack of information follows the Latino youth into adulthood, specifically into college, where sexual promiscuity is

most likely to occur, many times with drugs and alcohol playing a role. The information Latino adolescents do not receive from their parents

ally aggressive. This creates a scenario where the Latinas do not enforce the use of a condom and the man out of machismo pride refuses to put one on, putting both at risk. Unfortunately it does not stop there. Drugs also play an important role in the transmission of HIV and AIDS. The frequent use of drugs in the inner-city by Latinas is very high. With this drug use comes the sharing of needles, which results in the transmission of HIV and AIDS. This is why inner-city Latinas are the fastest growing group testing positive to HIV.

The presence of AIDS in the Latino community has become a slow but effective elimination process. The number of Latinos born in the United States is increasing with rapid speed, but it will not matter if most die of AIDS. The key to change is through sexual education in the Latino community. There needs to be a change in how Latinos deal with the topic of sex and

"AIDS is now the leading cause of death amongst Hispanic women ages 25-44 in New York City."

they get through hearsay and trial and error, usually from their peers. The sexual education that men and women do receive is archaic. Latinas are taught to be sexually passive and Latino men are taught to be "macho", meaning sexu-

AIDS continued on page 20

Edec. continued from page 17

many Latinos make socializing their first priority instead of academics, although both are important. The social life at college is a great contrast to their life at home and some Latinos find it difficult adjusting to the greater freedom that campus life allows.

Is Stony Brook and the rest of the higher education system deliberately built to hinder Latinos and other minorities? Most likely not, although it may seem that way. Administrators do not seem to be concerned with solving the current academic and bureaucratic dilemma that plagues the system. It is much more costly for the University to modernize and create student services that cater to students needs than to let the wasteful bureaucracy continue on.

Latinos are growing very fast in the United States, but the number of Latino college graduates and professionals is not proportional to this growth. Although Latinos need to concentrate more on their academics, Stony Brook and the higher education system in general also need to become more accessible to ensure they get the education they deserve and want.

Sports Department Preempts "Onda Nueva"

By Fernando Tirado

Have you turned on WUSB on Saturday afternoon's to hear a sports caster instead of the regularly broadcasted show? That's because the sports department at the radio station has preempted "Felipito's" radio show, Onda Nueva, four times this semester. The show is scheduled to air every Saturday at 3 p.m., but has not been the case due to these announced interruptions. After the middle of

March, the show is scheduled to be preempted an additional six times in the following eight weeks.

Onda Nueva is a salsa and Latin jazz radio show that has been on the air for the following 15 years. The show's host, Felix "Felipito" Palacios, has commuted every Saturday from the city since the show's inception on a volunteer basis. "Fifteen years and they [WUSB] don't even give me the courtesy of letting me know that

my show is being cut" states Palacios. "It's a disservice to the Latino community on Stony Brook and Long Island."

Latinos on campus have little representation in the media as it is and for WUSB to allow the Athletics department to preempt the show is inconsiderate. Professional TV and radio stations delay broadcast some of there events, there is no reason why WUSB can't do the same.

Poetry / Poesía

Courtesy of the Latin American Poetry Society (LAPS)

Collage

por Charie Gómez

*Soñé que te ahogabas en el aire,
que estabas perdido en el fondo,
de pasos ajenos.*

*En un fondo donde a la memoria
le crecían alas,
pero no volaba.*

*Se arrastraba sobre sus propios
recuerdos.*

*Te ahogabas en el aire
y te resistías sin decir nada.*

*Sólo te sostenías de cabezas
que flotaban a tu alrededor,
que también ahogaban.*

*Tus manos se aferraban a otras manos
que se desaparecían con tu toque.*

*Y tú seguías cayendo,
te seguías hundiendo sin dejar huella.*

*Sólo se veía el rastro de tu silencio,
mientras tu caías al vacío,
y yo te esperaba en el fondo.*

ACCIÓN 10/2/93

LLANTO

by

Rolando Glogowiec

**Caen lagrimas de mis ojos
Sus pasos dejan el rostro
de un amor doloroso
Es la soledad de mi pecho que envuelve
este cuerpo
Un amor me abandono, y sin rencor
me dejo una herida de emoción
Me pregunto porque hay dolor
Si todo lo que di fue amor
Un abrazo de ternura
Un beso, una promesa
Son mentiras lo que dejan
esas lagrimas que se alejan
Un suspiro es la canción
que hoy canto con dolor.**

Mas allá de la Confusión

por Dora Abreu

**No debes de sentirte solo
porque hay muchos que te rodean
trata de mirar mas allá del cielo**

**Quisiera saber que hacer or decirte
para que te sientas consolando
y saber que no estas triste**

**El ayer no puede borrar
se que erés fuerte pero
se que no es facil olvidar**

**Piensa en el mañana con humildad
que veras quel futuro vendra
con buenos pensamientos y claridad**

**Mira mas allá de la Confusión
y veras que bonito es el cielo
veras que no es una ilusión.**

ACCIÓN 10/2/93

Palomas Del Viejo San Juan

por Charlie Gómez

*Rondando los vacíos del Viejo San Juan,
se me acercó una paloma
que al oído me dijo: "Oye tú,
préstame tu cuerpo."*

Sin pensarlo, lo entregué.

*Con mi cuerpo, sin querer,
entregué mi alma.*

*Ahora ando volando en busca
de un epitafio con mi nombre.*

Procurando suspiros ajenos.

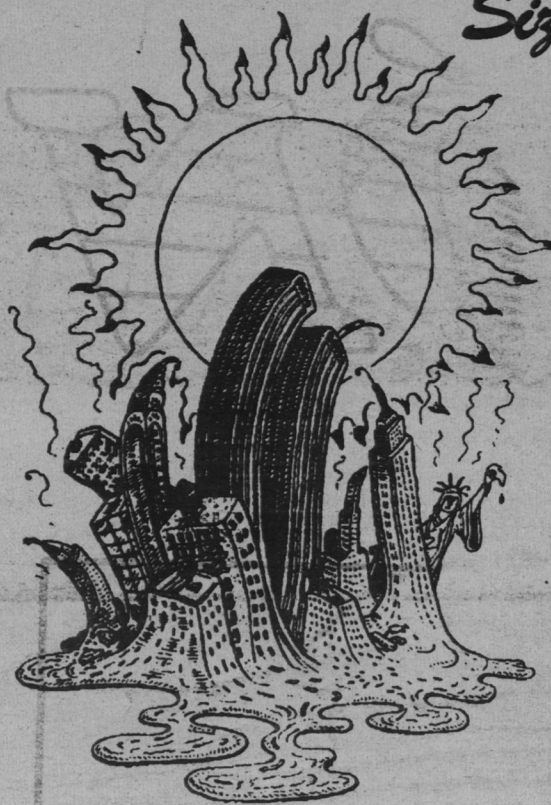
*Deseando ser siquiera
el esqueleto de tu sombra,*

*tu reflejo en el espejo
o las cenizas del sepulcro.*

*Ahora ando volando
buscando a quien quebrantarle
su silencio,*

*postrarme frente a su oído
y hacerle una proposición.*

ACCIÓN 2/22/93



*Sizzling your Saturday
afternoons with...*

ONDA NUEVA

con su salsero favorito...

"Felipito" Palacios

**Every Saturday afternoon
from 3 PM to 5:30 PM on
WUSB, 90.1 FM.**

*"Bringing you the best in
Latin Jazz and Salsa"*

Catch the wave!

The Onda Nueva music review, only in
"En ACCIÓN"

The Long Island Coalition for English Plus — Call to Action #3

RALLY AGAINST THE ENGLISH ONLY BILL

At Congressman King's Office
Saturday, May 13, 1995
10 AM to 12 noon
1003 Park Blvd., Massapequa Park
(North of railroad overpass on right)

NACOPRW & HSC publish multi-faceted study on Hispanics

Study continued from page 13

debate and enlighten policy makers at a time when detailed and specific information, coordination and consultation is badly needed about the Hispanic/Latino population—not only with respect to its current status and diversity but also in terms of its future. A critical goal of this report is to encourage policy makers to seek Hispanic/Latino input and recruit Hispanics/Latinos to participate more fully in society and in the policy making and advocacy processes that affect their lives.

Too often, the needs and issues of Hispanics have been allowed to slip through the cracks through oversight or perceived funding obstacles that have been easier to ignore than to attempt to overcome. Long Island's Hispanic leadership hopes to reverse this trend by the action it has taken and which is reflected in this report.

We face a future where the Hispanic population on Long Island and throughout New York State will continue to grow, whether or not undocumented immigration is effectively re-

duced. This Hispanic influence from Puerto Rico, Mexico and other Latin American countries will keep the Spanish language and Hispanic culture thriving in this county for many years to come. The process of adjustment for Hispanics and non-Hispanics will not be easy. The Hispanic leadership of Long Island stands ready and able to play a meaningful role in helping to make the adjustment successful, and sincerely hopes that other individuals, groups and organizations will join us in the important work and challenges that lie ahead.

The Long Island Hispanic/Latino Leadership Summit was sponsored by the National Conference of Puerto Rican Woman, II Chapter and was compiled by Dr. Carlos M. Vidal of the School of Social Welfare. This report was underwritten in part by the Department of Public Affairs at the University Medical Center at Stony Brook and by IILCO. For copies of the report please contact Stony Brook En ACCIÓN at: Stony Brook Student Union Building, Polity Office, c/o En ACCIÓN, Stony Brook, N.Y. 11794. You may also contact Dr. Carlos Vidal at the School of Social Welfare rm 099, Health Sciences Center at Stony Brook, Stony Brook, N.Y. 11790.

• The education committee was co-chaired by Ana M. Fontana Juanita Maltese and Rusa Quiles; Committee members included Alice Cardona, Carmen Garcia, Awilda Ramos and Gerardo Santos.

• The health committee was co-chaired by Lynda Perdomo-Ayala and Howard Cintron; Committee members included Elsa Alvarez, Carmen Correa, Selena Hernandez, Gertrude Lopez, Zoraida Martinez, Sonia Nadal, Loida Santos and Pauline Velazquez.

• The public and social services committee was co-chaired by Carlos Vidal and Jose Lopez. Committee members included Daniel Araoz, Octavia Diaz, Philip Goglas, Belinda Alvarez-Groneman, Edward Hernandez, Diana Marinara, Joseph Melendez and Gladys Serrano.

• The economics committee was co-chaired by Diana Dominguez-Weir and Rafael Picon. Committee members included Daniel D. Albizu, Edward Diaz, Roy Lopez, Liz Medina, Benjamin Moyette, Olga Ramirez, Anthony J. Rosalia-Menedez and Julio Vega.

Latinas and HIV/AIDS... increasing the awareness

AIDS continued from page 18

AIDS. AIDS doesn't seem to be leaving anytime soon, and we must accept this reality. The only way to battle with this disease is through knowledge.

By definition, HIV is a virus and is not the same as AIDS. HIV can lead to AIDS, but it is important to understand that if a person is HIV positive it does not mean that he or she has AIDS. AIDS is the breakdown of the immune system where the body slowly loses the ability to fight off other diseases. This means that the body is not able to protect itself.

How is this deadly disease acquired? According to the American Journal of Public Health (Jan 88, Vol.78, no.1), "AIDS is transmitted through semen, blood, blood products, and vaginal and cervical secretions. It is not transmitted through saliva, sweat, tears or urine." This simply means that only through unprotected sex where bodily fluids are exchanged, sharing needles, open wound to open wound contact with an infected person, or prenatal transmission (mother infects fetus) can one become infected. AIDS is not a gay disease or a disease of drug users. Unlike people, AIDS does not discriminate, it is an equal opportunity disease. The only reason that AIDS may occur more frequently in one group than in another, is because of the habits and locations of that particular group, and the lack of information available to them on the subject. This should be a major concern for inner-city Latinas.

As stated earlier in this article, HIV can only be acquired through the exchange of bodily fluids. Ways to prevent infection are abstinence (no sex), monogamy (one sexual partner), if you choose to use drugs, do not share needles, and if you are sexually active, use latex condoms with nonoxynol-9 which is a spermicide that protects people against AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases. Both partners in a relationship, be it heterosexual, gay or bisexual, need to take responsibility when it comes to sex. Latinas especially need to make a greater effort in protecting themselves by insisting that their partners use condoms. It is important to remember that HIV can be transferred from an infected mother to her baby, therefore they need to do this for themselves and for the children they may choose to have later in life.